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**BULLETIN
OF THE
CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22

October, 1968

Number 2

New Titles for Children and Young People

Allen, Robert. Numbers; A First Counting Book; photographed in color by Mottke Weissman. Platt and Munk, 1968. 60p. \$2.50.

R
4-6
yrs. Big, clear photographs of familiar objects add to both the attractiveness and the usefulness of this book. First the reader is introduced to numbers one to ten; then there are other pages on which the child can see, again, nine blocks or ten cookies. The book introduces some simple addition (pictured: a photograph of two lemons, another photograph of two lemons, and—facing them—a photograph of four lemons) and the ideas that size and location do not affect the counting unit. The pattern is broken on one page, where the photograph showing the total number lacks a caption.

American Heritage Magazine. To the Pacific with Lewis and Clark; by the editors of American Heritage; narr. by Ralph K. Andrist; in consultation with Edwin R. Bingham. American Heritage, 1967. 153p. illus. (American Junior Library Series) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

R
7- "No one knew then how high or how wide the Rockies were. Jefferson believed they were a single ridge of mountains . . ." and so young Captain Lewis was detailed to find out. Two years and four months later, Lewis and Clark returned with a remarkable record of safety within the group and amicable relations between themselves, friendly intercourse with most of the Indians they had met, and an impressive history of achievement as explorers and collectors. An always-fascinating segment of American history is done full justice here, with smoothly written text and excellent illustrations. A list of books suggested for further reading and an index are appended.

Andersen, Hans Christian. The Snow Queen; A Fairy Tale by Hans Christian Andersen, ad. by Naomi Lewis; illus. by Toma Bogdanovic. Scroll Press, 1968. 32p. \$4.95.

Ad
3-4 In this oversize book, the illustrations, glowing with color and romantic in mood, are in full or double page spreads, the dramatic moments of the familiar story captured in stylized detail by the Yugoslavian illustrator. The adapted text is much more simply written than the original, and it omits many of the details therein; it seems, because of the simpler vocabulary, large print, and picture book format, more appropriate for the primary grades than for the middle grades reader, who certainly has nothing to gain by reading a version in which (although Naomi Lewis

has kept the mood and even some of the phrases) one misses the distinctive style that is just what has made Andersen great.

Ashby, Gwynneth. Looking at Norway. Lippincott, 1967. 64p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.93 net.

Ad 4-6 First published in Great Britain, and profusely illustrated, a book that gives many facts about Norway in a format that is topical and continuous. The topics seem to be chosen at random—fishing, skiing, festivals, railways, Bergen, and shipping being one sequence. The photographs are attractive, the information interesting if haphazard. Maps and statistical data are furnished on the endpapers; an index is appended.

Bishop, Curtis Kent. Hackberry Jones, Split End. Lippincott, 1968. 174p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.39 net.

Ad 6-9 A high school football story about a gawky, engaging boy who is a natural genius at pass reception. Jim Carter, the team quarterback, had brought Hack in as a varsity candidate because his girl friend had insisted that this cute boy at the riding stables ought to be on the team. Jealous, Jim finds a way to have Hack dropped; then, remorseful, he finds a way to get him back. The plot is frail, but the book is permeated with cheerful humor and some very good descriptions of games and scrimmage sessions that should appeal to football fans.

Blishen, Edward, ed. Miscellany Three; with line drawings and colour plates. Watts, 1967. 204p. Trade ed. \$7.95; Library ed. \$5.96 net.

Blishen, Edward, ed. Miscellany Four; with line drawings and colour plates. Watts, 1968. 208p. \$7.95.

R 6-9 Like the two previous anthologies in this series, these are a happy combination of entertainment and information, with varied stories, poems, articles, and plays. The illustrations are as varied and as discriminatingly chosen as is the writing. First published in England, these are browsing (and browsing again) books of unusually high quality.

Boles, Paul Darcy. A Million Guitars; and Other Stories. Little, 1968. 282p. \$4.75.

Ad 7-10 A collection of short stories written with the kind of humor and the kind of sentimental touch that are typical of the formula-women's-magazines-style. However, the writing is smooth, the situations are realistic (although they may be treated in exaggerated style) and—best of all—the stories are from the viewpoint of the adolescent male, whether they are in first or in third person.

Bowes, Ann LaBastille. Bird Kingdom of the Mayas; illus. by Anita Benarde. Van Nostrand, 1967. 80p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

Ad 3-5 Collected in Yucatan, twelve folk tales about jungle birds of Central America ("How Vanity Made the Dove Sad," "Why Owls See Only at Night"); most of the stories describe cases of just deserts in the bird kingdom. There is little humor in the writing, and the stories have incidents and phrases that are repetitive; the illustrations are stylized and a bit distracting in black, red, pink, and white.

Bonham, Frank. Mystery of the Fat Cat; illus. by Alvin Smith. Dutton, 1968. 160p. \$3.95.

R
5-9 For years the authorities had been threatening to tear down the Dogtown Boys Club; for years the Club had been waiting for a large bequest. A wealthy woman had designated the Club as recipient of her fortune when her pet cat died. Now the cat was twenty-eight years old—so its caretaker said, but the boys didn't believe it and decided to investigate, since they suspected that he had substituted another cat so that he could enjoy a permanent job. Their unraveling of the mystery is believable and exciting. The characters are lively, the dialogue natural, and the inclusion of a backward child as a sympathetic—and contributing—character adds to the book's appeal.

Bradbury, Bianca. Dogs and More Dogs; illus. by Robert MacLean. Houghton, 1968. 162p. \$3.25.

R
4-6 Tommy and Sylvia Redfield understand that they can't keep Mike, a stray dog, since there are already so many family pets—but Mike's new owners mistreat him, and the Redfields add him to their family. Talking about the problems of strays leads the children and their friends to form an Animal Welfare Club; they rescue some kittens, raise money, get a story into the newspaper, et cetera. The outcome is both satisfying and believable, the children's accomplishments are praiseworthy but not melodramatic, and the children themselves seem natural. The message of the book is clear, with no attempt to mask it, and one is eternally grateful to the author for not having all problems solved as a result of newspaper publicity.

Carse, Robert. Ocean Challenge; The New U. S. Merchant Marine. Norton, 1967. 104p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.03 net.

R
6-10 A survey of the renaissance of the Merchant Navy since the second world war. Liberally illustrated with photographs, the book describes the uses made of some of the older ships, the innovations in the building of new ones, and the many developments that have added speed and efficiency to the vessels themselves or to the services they offer. The kinds of ships discussed range from freighters and cargo ships to the hydrofoil ship and the jet-skimmer. Briskly factual, a small treasure for naval buffs. An index is appended.

Chernoff, Dorothy, ed. Call Us Americans; illus. by Jack Wolf. Doubleday, 1968. 297p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.70 net.

Ad
6-9 Seventeen short stories or excerpts from books are included in an ethnic potpourri, each selection being about an immigrant or immigrant family of a different origin. Some of the tales are touching, several are humorous, and several are sentimental and pedestrian.

Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). The Big Pile of Dirt; illus. by Robert Shore. Holt, 1968. 32p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R
3-5 A good story for city children who are familiar with the problem of trying to find a place to play in a crowded neighborhood. Mike describes the pleasure he and his friends have when a house is demolished and there is a play space. When a clearing of the site is planned, Mike begs

that they be allowed to keep the big pile of dirt that has given them such pleasure—it even has grass. Touched, the mayor gives directions for playground equipment and some landscaping. The bold illustrations are vigorous and harsh; the story is told in a matter-of-fact way but has a poignant overtone.

Cooper, Edmund J. Let's Look at Costume; illus. by Norma Ost. Whitman, 1967. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.06 net.

M First published in Great Britain in 1965, a book that is not about stage
4-6 costume but is a history of clothing, rather superficial in treatment but adequately written. The illustrations make the book useful, but its usefulness is severely limited by the poor arrangement of material (one sequence is: robes of state, new machines and procedures, ancient Egyptian costume, men's shirt details—then to now—back to the Egyptians and Greeks, shoes down the ages, et cetera) which has both topical and chronological elements.

Cretan, Gladys Yessayan. Run Away Habeeb! illus. by Robert L. Jefferson. Abingdon, 1968. 40p. \$3.

Ad Although his family had moved to Tangier so that Habeeb could at-
2-4 tend school, he ran away on the very first day. All of the faces were strange, all the other boys had city clothes, and Habeeb felt alone and uncomfortable. He tried several different jobs in the marketplace while he waited for a letter from his grandfather, whose advice was that Habeeb use his chance to get learning. So Habeeb went back, and found that the other boys welcomed him. The story line is slight but the universality of the situation plus the unusual background give the book appeal. A glossary of "less familiar" words is appended.

D'Amelio, Dan. Taller Than Bandai Mountain; The Story of Hideyo Noguchi; illus. by Fred Banbery. Viking, 1968. 185p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.13 net.

R A biography of the Japanese doctor whose bacteriological research
5-7 in several areas was arduous and devoted. The writing is fluid, highly and skillfully fictionalized; the book concentrates on Noguchi's childhood and his medical training, which are in truth material for romantic fiction. Severely burned as an infant, Noguchi had to overcome the obstacle of having little use of one hand, as well as the obstacle of abject poverty, in his determined pursuit of his profession.

Doss, Helen. King David; illus. by Norman Kohn. Abingdon, 1967. 144p. \$3.50.

M The King is dying, and there is rivalry between his sons for David's
6-8 throne; as the hours pass, on the last day of King David's life, some of his family and his old friends remember events of the past. Thus there is built up a picture of the impetuous and shrewd leader, not always scrupulously fair, but often passionately loyal. The technique is interesting, and the spectrum of episodes gives a varied and colorful picture both of the man and the events in his life, but the writing is both repetitive and pedestrian. For example, Abishag, the young girl who has been brought in to "be the nurse" for the old King, comments on Adonijah's trepidation, "Why wouldn't he? I mean, when you think! He might end

up dead." Each episode is prefaced by an annotated cast list, a necessarily repetitive device.

Drdek, Richard E. The Game. Doubleday, 1968. 142p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.70 net.

Ad 5-6 A story of ethical conflict, strong in the importance of the problem it poses and in the characters it presents, but weak in the shift of focus that needs a larger time to operate than the twenty-four hours of this intense story. Sonny Novak is twelve, and lives with his Uncle Frank, who dotes on the boy; their usual pattern of guessing what it is that the other found is upset when Sonny finds a large sum of money. Shall he keep it for the guardian he loves, or turn it over to the police? Uncle Frank discusses Sonny's dilemma with the priest and decides that if his moral teachings have been effective, Sonny will do the right thing. The sub-plot vies with the main theme in interest, since there is a community protest against the way Uncle Frank is bringing up his ward, who (it is gradually divulged) is actually the child of Frank's wife, who had run off with another man and who committed suicide just after her baby was born.

Dumas, Gerald. Rabbits Rafferty; illus. by Wallace Tripp. Houghton, 1968. 196p. \$3.25.

R 4-6 A sophisticated and merry picture of society is reflected in this mildly satirical story about an animal community, Salemtown. Rabbits (plural form because of his girth) is an amiable character who stumbles into conflict with a tough gang led by Mink Mumsey (The Compleat Mobster) who wants to tear down the town and build his own community, Mumsey City. The illustrations have a precision and humor reminiscent of Shepard's work, and the story has a touch of ingenuous Pooh, too. It is, however, far more allusive and wry, so that the humor as well as the style are mature for most readers of animal stories.

Elgin, Kathleen. The Human Body: The Heart; written and illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Watts, 1968. 50p. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad 3-5 An introduction to the topic that is limited in usefulness by some weaknesses of the illustrations, which are very handsome in design, but susceptible to confusion in the way color is used. (Does red show merely that the ventricle or valve is being discussed—or that it is blood-filled?) In one illustration it looks as though blood flows from the left ventricle to the left atrium (rather than vice versa) into the body. The text is clear; it is focused on a description of heart action rather than a complete description of the circulatory system.

Eyerly, Jeanette. The Girl Inside. Lippincott, 1968. 186p. \$3.95.

Ad 6-9 If ever an adolescent girl had reason to be unhappy, Chris did; her mother had died suddenly and, shortly after that, her father. Added to the burden of grief was a feeling of guilt: if she hadn't coaxed him to hurry home, would her father have had an accident? A new life begins for Chris when she goes to live with her legal guardian and his family; she enrolls at a new school and acquires a boy friend. Then her guardian dies of a heart attack, and Chris—who had attempted suicide after her father's death—goes to pieces. But when she picks the pieces up,

Chris begins to see that other people have to face death and loneliness too, and the girl inside the Chris that other people see begins to grow up. There are flashes of perceptive writing and some touching moments in the story, but it lacks impact; it is adequately written, but it has a faint air of a carefully fictionalized case history.

Fife, Dale. The Boy Who Lived in the Railroad Depot; illus. by Ingrid Fetz. Coward-McCann, 1968. 72p. Library ed. \$3.29 net.

Ad 3-5 Living in the depot of a ghost town had sounded interesting to Barney when the family came west for Dad's health, but it turned out to be a lonely life. He wanted to get into the gang of boys who lived in the near-by town, but the only friend he made for a long time was an Indian boy, Jim. Barney acquired the burro and the hat he wanted for the Fourth of July parade, so he could join the gang, but when he realized that he would be spoiling a previously made plan to ride with Jim in a car, he knew he couldn't hurt an old friend just to make new ones. The setting is attractive and the episodes realistic, but the plot has a slight air of concoction; for example, Barney has a minor accident in a mine that Jim had told him was dangerous, and it is then he decides he must make things right with Jim.

Finkel, George. Watch Fires to the North. Viking, 1968. 311p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.77 net.

R 7-9 First published in England under the title Twilight Province, an absorbing story set in Britain after the withdrawal of the Roman troops. Lucius Bedwyr Marcianus, who tells the story, is thirteen and the descendant of a centurion. His friend Artyr is a natural leader; his cousin Gwenyfer a harum-scarum girl at the start of the book; as Bedwyr describes the raids and rivalries of the countryside, the battles and pilgrimages, there emerges a brilliant version of the Arthurian legend—the names slightly different, the personalities far more convincing than they usually are. The writing is sedate in style, occasionally ponderous, but that is easily compensated for by the historical fidelity, the vivid characterization, and the flow of action.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. The Doctors; written and illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Watts, 1968. 48p. (Colonial American Craftsmen) Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad 5-7 Illustrated with the bold scratchboard drawings that are Fisher's distinctive trademark, another in the series of useful books about trades and professions in colonial times. This volume gives a bit less of the colonial atmosphere than do most of the others, perhaps because there is little here to distinguish New World medical practices from those in other countries. A list of some doctors of colonial times and an index are appended.

Flora, James. The Joking Man; story and pictures by James Flora. Harcourt, 1968. 28p. \$3.25.

M K-2 Busily detailed drawings illustrate a nonsense story with a slight theme; a mysterious man plays tricks on the townspeople, and only on the last page does the reader learn the identity of the "joking man." Almost all of the tricks are practical jokes, although some are innocent

(blowing bubbles out of a tuba) and some are malicious (filling unopened umbrellas with spaghetti, so that people are covered with spaghetti when they open their umbrellas). There is no plot; the book's appeal depends on the lively silliness of the illustrations and the repetitive pattern of such jokes as painting cows, filling a swimming pool with jello, or putting square wheels on the mayor's car.

Forsberg, Vera. Gennet Lives in Ethiopia; photographs by Anna Riwkin-Brick. Macmillan, 1968. 46p. \$3.95.

Ad
3-4 Originally published in Sweden, this is the eleventh in a series of books about children the world over. The photographs are often handsome, usually informative, and always of good quality. The text is very simple; it gives a fair amount of information about rural life in Ethiopia today. The book has a few irrelevant pictures, with text contrived to follow them, and the writing has an occasional note of condescension ("Tadesse is Gennet's big brother. He is twelve years old. Hasn't he a fine hat?") but all of these weaknesses are balanced by the photographs of attractive children (and a beautiful mother) and by the universality that pervades the book.

Glubok, Shirley. The Art of Ancient Mexico; designed by Gerard Nook; special photography by Alfred H. Tamarin. Harper, 1968. 41p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.11 net.

R
4-6 A handsome book, as are the others in this series. The photographs of art objects of several ancient civilizations are presented in spacious format; the writing is very simple and the organization haphazard. The book gives a good picture of the highly distinctive achievements of ancient Mexican cultures, with some background information included.

Grabianski, Janusz. Birds. Watts, 1968. 31p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

SpC
3-5 Although the pictures of birds are strikingly lovely, with vibrant colors and a great deal of movement, the book is limited by the fact that there seems to be only a random arrangement of material which has itself been chosen at random. On each page a sentence or two gives a few facts about the birds pictured; the book isn't comprehensive enough to be useful, but it may serve to encourage interest in the topic and it certainly may be of interest in an art collection.

Gramatky, Hardie. Little Toot on the Grand Canal. Putnam, 1968. 88p. illus. Library ed. \$3.97 net.

NR
K-2 Partly travelogue, partly picture book, partly comic strip, and wholly contrived. The tugboat Little Toot goes to Venice with his father (Big Toot) and is interested in the architecture but baffled by the sad songs of the gondoliers. When Venice is attacked by Pirates (yes, pirates) the carabinieri are helpless, but Little Toot puffs out of a glassblowing shop blowing large irresistible bubbles. The pirates abandon all their newly-collected loot, and follow the bubbles over the Bridge of Sighs and into Prison. Great celebration, happy gondoliers, offers of presents to Little Toot.

Green, Alexander. Scarlet Sails; tr. from the Russian by Thomas P. Whitney;

illus. by Esta Nesbitt. Scribner, 1967. 144p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.05 net.

Ad
6-8

First published in Russia in 1923, this is a deliberately romantic story, saved from sentimentality by the occasional barbed comment and by the fact that the author has a tenable theory as a basis for the story line. Easy enough, he says, to think of it as a miracle when a warden frees a prisoner or a billionaire gives a villa and a chorus girl to a clerk; no less miracles are "a smile, gladness, forgiveness, and a word which is needed and said in time." As a small girl, Asole had been told that some day there would come a boat with scarlet sails, and on it there would be a prince who would carry her off . . . and thus it happens. The prince is a wealthy and whimsical young captain who has heard of Asole's promised fate, and decides to fulfill the legend; the denouement is believable, therefore, but the whole story has aspects of contrivance that are acceptable only because this is a tender story and because the simple plot and the legend-like figures have the appeal of a saga fragment.

Hardwick, Richard. Charles Richard Drew; Pioneer in Blood Research. Scribner, 1967. 144p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.63 net.

Ad
6-9

Written in an informal and occasionally banal style, this is a biography that is nevertheless interesting because of the major contribution made by Dr. Drew to medical history. His application to Howard Medical School rejected, Drew applied to several others, all of which accepted him; he chose McGill, since he had experienced discrimination in his own country. His academic record was excellent and Drew became a member of the Howard faculty. Drew's research in the use of plasma led to his being appointed medical director of The American Red Cross Blood Program—and his professional accomplishments served to make prospects a bit brighter for the Negro student interested in a medical career. A glossary, a list of sources, and an index are appended.

Hautzig, Esther. In the Park; an Excursion in Four Languages; pictures by Ezra Jack Keats. Macmillan, 1968. 27p. \$4.95.

R
3-4

Very simple, very functional, very attractive. Parks are fun to visit, the text states, in New York - or Paris - or Moscow - or Madrid. Following this pattern, the names of familiar things are given in each of the four appropriate languages, with pronunciation below each word. The pictures are gay, the word-comparison can be fun, and the universality of children's interests is an implicit additional message. Unlike the Laurence book below, this does not attempt to tell a story, so that it need not bear the label of a picture-book to discourage independent readers. A list of additional words and a pronunciation guide to the Russian alphabet are appended.

Hildick, E. W. Lemon Kelly; illus. by Arvis Stewart. Doubleday, 1968. 162p. \$3.50.

Ad
5-7

Although his authority is occasionally challenged, Lemon Kelly is able to control his gang—all pupils at a Junior School in an English town—by his inventive and exciting ideas. They support him solidly when he works out a plan to find the real culprits who are committing acts of vandalism, acts of which the Lemon Kelly gang are accused. The action

is more diffuse than it is in Louie's Lot, as the children scramble about the town, chasing and being chased, but the writing has verve and humor; the children are lively and believable, the dialogue not always convincing.

Hildick, E. W. Louie's Lot. White, 1968. 146p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.76 net.

R
5-8 First published in Great Britain in 1965, an amusing story about a group of boys in an English village. All of them want to become part of Louie's lot, since Louie—the local milkman—is much admired. Honest, sharp, and uncompromising, Louie expects his helpers to be dependable, imaginative, and intelligent; he has set up a complicated battery of tests in which the boys are selected by a process of elimination. This is a situation story rather than a story with plot, but it lacks neither humor nor action. The writing has flair, the setting is intriguing, and the episodes of the trials are diverting.

Horizon Magazine. Russia in Revolution; by the editors of Horizon Magazine; narr. by E. M. Halliday; in consultation with Cyril E. Black. American Heritage, 1967. 153p. illus. (Horizon Caravel Books) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

R
7- Illustrated with excellent photographs and some interesting contemporary cartoons, this is a mature and detailed history of the revolution, giving less background than does Goldston in The Russian Revolution (Bobbs-Merrill, 1966) but concentrating more on the events that took place between March, 1917 and the death of Lenin. Goldston, and Footman in The Russian Revolutions (Putnam, 1964), give a clear and perhaps more easily assimilable description of the events and personalities of the time, but Russia in Revolution, because of the focus and the illustrations, gives a more dramatic and immediate picture.

Hornby, John. Gypsies; illus. by Richard Lebenson. Walck, 1967. 48p. \$3.

M
5-6 First published in England, a book that gives quite a bit of information about Gypsy tribes, but is weakened by the stilted writing flavored with travel-documentary remarks such as the closing sentence of the book, "They change little, for they are Romanies, the strangest and proudest people the world has known." The illustrations are deft, reminiscent of Zorn's etchings; the text gives facts about almost every aspect of Gypsy life and some background about the language and origins of the tribes. The book is useful because there is so little material about Gypsies, but it is neither well-written nor comprehensive.

Hubbard, D. L. The Dragon Comes to Admela; illus. by Donald Charles. Reilly and Lee, 1967. 41p. \$2.95.

M
3-5 An unabashedly nonsensical story, in which one of the sons of Good King Daddy has an adventure; Handsome Prince Michael (sword of Damascus steel, clothes of silk from Cathay, etc. etc.), allergic to horses, is forced to ride a large dog. Good King Daddy, embarrassed by all the jokes about the dog, sends Michael away on a hastily concocted errand whenever a dignitary is expected. But the Handsome Prince subdues the dragon (three-headed) and returns triumphant. The illustrations are pedestrian, the humor obvious—but cheerfully obvious—and the story weakened by being stretched and by a shift in focus from Michael's

problem to the dragon's problem—or rather, to one head's problem.

Jacobs, Joseph, ad. Hudden and Dudden and Donald O'Neary; illus. by Doris Burn. Coward-McCann, 1968. 40p. Library ed. \$2.86 net.

R
K-3 A Celtic folk tale, illustrated with vigorous, attractive black and white drawings. All that Donald O'Neary owned was a bony cow and a poor strip of land, but that didn't keep his wealthy and avaricious neighbors from envying him his wee bit of property. So they schemed and planned, killing the one cow so that Donald would lose heart and leave. Each time Hudden and Dudden grasp for gain, they are outwitted by Donald in a story that has humor, style, and the great satisfaction of seeing the greedy get their comeuppance.

Jarunková, Klára. Don't Cry for Me; tr. from the Slovak by George Theiner. Four Winds, 1968. 287p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.12 net.

Ad
7-10 It may be Czechoslovakia, but Olga's description of her fifteenth year could take place (with a few changes of local custom or idiom) anywhere in the western world. She is concerned about the conflict between her parents; she is tenderly concerned about the small children next door, so often left alone; she is attracted to (and a bit nervous about) the cute boy who wants to become her boy friend. She is filled with self-doubt at times and with high elation at others; irritated by the grandmother who lives with them, but needing to be buttressed by family love. The book is slow-moving and lacks a strong plot line, but it gives a most convincing first-person account of an adolescent in normal ferment, and it has added interest because of the contemporary eastern European setting.

Kuskin, Karla. Watson, the Smartest Dog in the U.S.A. Harper, 1968. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Ad
K-2 A read-aloud story with nonsensical appeal and lively (but often distracting) illustrations. The hero is a dog who is a bibliophile, clarinet player, and Instant Daydreamer. Reading to his boy, Watson is carried away repeatedly by imagining himself each character in turn—a procedure that palls slightly with repetition. The story makes Watson-the-tender weep, his family tries to distract him, and only the happy ending of his book soothes him. "And he was still dancing the next morning," the story ends rather abruptly, "as he flipped the blueberry pancakes and juggled the juice."

Laurence. A Village in Normandy; written and illus. by Laurence. Bobbs-Merrill, 1968. 25p. \$3.75.

Ad
3-4 An attractive picture book with the English and French texts printed side-by-side. The pastel-hued illustrations show scenes of the village, following the postman as he goes from the postoffice-cafe down the village street to the farm and the blacksmith shop at the other end of town. The level of the vocabulary indicates an older reader (if the book is, indeed, to be used as a bilingual text) than the picture-book audience indicated by the publisher.

Little, Jean. Take Wing; illus. by Jerry Lazare. Little, 1968. 176p. \$4.25

R
5-7 Laurel had always had a special love for her brother James, had always tried to hide her fear that he was not quite normal, and had always protected him. He shouldn't have been wetting the bed at the age of seven, or needing help with his clothes. Not until a series of small crises, during mother's absence, did shy Laurel dare to talk to her father about a medical examination, and only after it proved that James was mentally retarded but educable did Laurel acknowledge that she had coddled her brother. There are several other themes to give the story balance: Laurel's shyness causes her trouble in making friends and also in accepting, with composure, a role in a school play. The ending is satisfying, with some problems solved but no occurrence of miracles; the book's only contrived aspect is that the girl with whom Laurel has been hoping to become friends also has a retarded sibling, an older sister.

McGovern, Ann. Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest; illus. by Arnold Spilka. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 164p. \$3.95.

R
4-6 A simplified version of the Robin Hood legend, with the story line being stripped of material that is either complicated or ancillary, and the writing stripped of ornate phrases and obsolete words. There is still, in the dialogue, enough medieval language to give color and verisimilitude to the tale.

Miller, Katherine. Saint George; A Christmas Mummers' Play; illus. by Wallace Tripp. Houghton, 1967. 48p. \$3.95.

R
5-8 A special pleasure for those who enjoy keeping traditional folk and art forms alive, this is a version of the old English Christmas play performed in people's homes by enthusiastic amateurs. The costumes and much of the dialogue are set by custom, but there is room for improvisation, especially in stage business. The script and stage directions are given together, with production notes at the end of the book. The atmosphere of slapstick humor is echoed in the illustrations.

Montgomery, Jean. The Wrath of Coyote; illus. by Anne Siberell. Morrow, 1968. 283p. \$3.95.

Ad
6-9 This is the story that Kotola, as an old man, tells of his life as one of the Miwok people. A peaceful tribe of California Indians, the Miwok fought—as did so many tribes—against the incursion of the Spanish soldiers and missionaries. As did so many tribes, they lost their battle for survival. Kotola describes the excitement he felt, as a boy, when the pale strangers came with their great ships; a friendly and curious lad, he learned to talk to the Spanish, who called him "Marin." Only later did Kotola and his people learn that the strangers brought disease, cruelty, death: the end of their own culture. The story moves slowly, although there are exciting passages; it has a quiet, melancholy timbre. A glossary of Miwok words is appended.

Myrick, Mildred. Ants Are Fun; pictures by Arnold Lobel. Harper, 1968. 63p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

Ad
2-3 Jack and Jimmy are intrigued by the hobby of the new boy in the neighborhood, Don. It turns out that his mysterious box contains an ant colony, and the conversations amongst the boys and with Don's father bring out some basic facts about ants. The illustrations are vivacious,

the story rather stilted—not quite enough plot for fiction, and a bit too much plot for an informational book.

Olson, Gene. The Most Beautiful Girl in the World. Westminster, 1968. 168p. \$3.95.

M 6-9 It had been a good many years since a candidate from Pat's high school had won the beauty contest that was part of the local Timber Festival. With genuine reluctance she agreed to run, sure that the baton-twirling Susie would get more votes than she. Who would vote for a violinist playing Mozart? It was after she had won the school vote and gone on to the finals that Pat was truly disturbed; to her there was no question that Doe Reed should be Festival Queen and there was almost no chance that a Negro girl could be. Pat finally wins and gives up her title (as she had planned to do) to Doe. The story has some candid discussion of the slow erosion of prejudice, and some good family scenes, but it is very drawn-out; both Doe and Pat are a bit too good to be true.

Parker, Richard. The Hendon Fungus. Meredith, 1968. 185p. \$3.95.

Ad 5-7 Emmelle and Peter Hendon's father is a scientist who sends back to England some specimens of a strange fungus he has found in Asia. To the family's (and the government's) dismay, the fungus spreads at a wild rate, destroying the foundations of buildings and killing all insects in its path. Southern England is laid waste before the plague is stopped, and the Hendon family, ostracized by their neighbors, emigrates to Australia. The book has good style and pace; it is better than most science fiction written for young people, but it is weakened by the ending: the last few pages compress the move to Australia, the fact that a colleague of Mr. Hendon's comes back from the United States with a cure, and the additional fact that a wealthy man (capitalizing on his monopoly of southern England as a resort area) refuses to let the ravaged countryside be rehabilitated. The tempo just doesn't fit the day-by-day time sequence of the rest of the story.

Pohlmann, Lillian. Sing Loose. Westminster, 1968. 160p. \$3.95.

Ad 7-10 Maria has just moved to yet another school. Most girls would be unhappy about being new; few girls would have Maria's added burden, the fact that her father was in prison. She hoped nobody would find out, yet she hoped always that she could tell somebody and have the fact accepted. The adolescent characters are perceptively seen, and the ambivalence of Maria about her father's return to family life is well-handled; the weakness of the book is in the plethora of plot threads: Maria's two love affairs (a patterned teen-age fiction triangle), the assimilation of the new senior in school life, Maria's singing, the too-fat friend who finds a boy, etc.

Raymond, Charles. The Trouble with Gus. Follett, 1968. 223p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.63 net.

Ad 5-7 The trouble with Gus was that her best friend had moved away, she disliked her own looks, her father had lost his job, and there didn't seem to be any way for her to have friends without joining some of the tough kids in the neighborhood. When her father took a job in a riding academy, Gus brought some of her new friends around, and their inter-

est in horses led her to propose a saddle club, which led to a new cohesion in the classroom and—to Gus—a happy feeling that she had a niche in her world. The story, set in a racially and ethnically mixed neighborhood in Chicago, gives a realistic picture of a stratum of urban life; the problems are real, and the people convincing. The story is particularly candid in focusing on prejudice against Puerto Ricans; it is weak in being cluttered with many characters and in a diffuse story line.

Rose, Ronald. Ngari the Hunter. Harcourt, 1968. 44p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad 3-5 An oversize book with spacious layout and photographs in full color, this records the life of an aboriginal tribe of the central Australian desert. Ngari is of the Wailbri tribe, living in the arid government settlement of Papunya. The book gives interesting information about the aborigines, the attractive pictures add to the exotic appeal of the Australian desert background, and the impish face of Ngari is a recurrent asset. As is true of most pictorial records with ethnic or geographic focus, this has some text that seems obviously concocted to accompany interesting photographs.

Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out About Airplanes; by Martha and Charles Shapp; pictures by Douglas Lazarus. Watts, 1968. 55p. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

M 2-3 A slight text skims aeronautical history, describing the way men dreamed of flying in ancient times, and—with a mention of balloons—moving quickly to the modern airplane in its varied forms. There is a brief description of a flight, with emphasis on the personnel. Both in this latter portion and in the description of the evolution of the modern airplane, there is almost no information about the principles or the mechanisms that make controlled flight possible. The best that can be said for the book is that it is simply written, adequately illustrated, and easy to read.

Sherman, Nancy. Miss Agatha's Lark; illus. by Mircea Vasiliu. Bobbs-Merrill, 1968. 28p. \$3.50.

M K-2 A picture book about a bird-lover who inspires children to share her concern. The lively pictures of children in Riverside Park are attractive; the rhyming text describes the staunch, elderly Miss Agatha Goodfellow as champion of the nesting prairie horned lark who has unwisely chosen to be in a steam shovel's path. Miss Agatha puts children on guard during the day, and ensconces herself in a tree at night. The boss, Mr. Loveless, is kept from destroying the nest when Miss Agatha's bird whistle summons a varied multitude of birds who life Mr. L. by the seat of his pants and fly him to the Bahamas. The message has appeal, but the combination of information about species and the nonsense plot is ineffective.

Showers, Paul. Hear Your Heart; illus. by Joseph Low. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 35p. (Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Books) \$3.25.

R 2-3 In his usual competent fashion, Mr. Showers gives basic facts about the heart and its operation, adding no extraneous material and explaining lucidly the details of heart action. The fact that the blood moves through the lungs is omitted in the interest of simplification, for ex-

ample. The diagrams follow the text closely, so that the complexity of the illustrations grows as does that of the text. Other parts of the circulatory system are described briefly, enough to round out the picture without detracting from the real topic.

Simon, Norma. See the First Star; pictures by Joe Lasker. Whitman, 1968. 28p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$2.63 net.

M
2-3 A competently illustrated book for the primary reader; the story is printed in large type, the writing is quite static. "John tells the doctor about the squirrel too far down the road. John tells the doctor about . . ." The theme of the book—the need for, and acquisition of, eyeglasses has been done with more humor in Raskin's Spectacles and with more impact in Jennifer Jean, the Cross-Eyed Queen by Naylor.

Smith, Datus C. The Land and People of Indonesia. Rev. ed. Lippincott, 1968. 158p. illus. (Portraits of the Nations Series) Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$2.93 net.

Ad
6-9 A revision of a 1961 publication, bringing the material on recent developments in Indonesia's political history up to date. The author is a specialist in Asian culture and has done a capable—and sympathetic—survey of Indonesia's emergence from colonial thrall. The material is well-organized, with especially good chapters on education and on cultural affairs, but most of the book is devoted to Indonesia's complicated history. An index is appended.

Smith, Fredrika Shumway. Stanley; African Explorer; illus. by Charles Moser. Rand McNally, 1968. 240p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-8 Little John Rowlands' father was dead, and his mother had deserted him; the boy was sent to a workhouse at which he was so cruelly treated that he ran away. It was after he came to America that Rowlands took the name of the beloved foster father he met in New Orleans, and became Henry Stanley. The biography goes on to describe the more familiar details of Stanley's life as an explorer and journalist in Africa, and concludes with a brief resume of his later years in England. The writing is rather heavy in style, but the material is dramatic and the book based on competent research. Duplicate maps of Stanley's three African expeditions are provided in the end papers; an extensive index is appended.

Smith, Moyne Rice. 7 Plays & How to Produce Them; illus. by Don Bolognese. Walck, 1968. 148p. \$4.50.

R
5-8 The seven plays themselves vary from good to slightly awkward, but the book is valuable because it puts a premium on adaptation and production by young people. All of these plays adapted from stories by eminent children's authors have been put on by children, and each is followed by production notes. Some of the selections are delightfully funny, none puts a burden on an individual actor, and several are adaptable for large or small casts. A list of books about children's theater or on theatrical subjects is appended.

Taber, Gladys (Bagg). Especially Dogs . . . Especially at Stillmeadow. Lippincott, 1968. 191p. illus. \$4.50.

- R 6- You don't even have to be a dog-lover to enjoy the author's reminiscences about some of the dogs she has owned and loved. First of all, the writing style is trenchant, informal, and humorous; second, the facts about breeding and training dogs are interesting; third, the affectionate (but not sentimental) tone that permeates the book has the same appeal as does seeing such affection in actuality.

Thompson, Paul D. The Virus Realm; illus. by Mary Lybarger. Lippincott, 1968. 189p. \$4.50.

- R 7- An interesting survey of a field that has both dramatic and pragmatic interest. Giving some historical background, the author goes on to discuss techniques of research in virus forms and the diseases they cause. Separate chapters describe the work done in plant viruses, viruses and cancer, the spread of disease, et cetera; the concluding chapter describes ways in which viruses can assume a useful function when controlled by man. Some comparatively simple home experiments are suggested; a bibliography and an index are appended.

Voss, Carl Hermann. In Search of Meaning: Living Religions of the World; illus. by Eric Carle. World, 1968. 191p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.28.

- R 8- An informative and thoughtful discussion of the origins of religion, the evolution of world faiths, and the role of religions in contemporary society. Extensively described are the major religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism and Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, and Shinto. The book gives more insight into similarities among different faiths than does Savage's The Story of World Religions (Walck, 1967) but it has a touch of pomposity that weakens the otherwise competently written text. The historical material is excellent; an index and an extensive divided bibliography are appended.

Weygant, Noemi, Sister. It's Autumn! text and photographs by Noemi Weygant. Westminster, 1968. 63p. \$3.95.

- NR 3-4 A book of color photographs, each accompanied by a poem; the photographs are handsome close-ups of natural scenes: a deer's footprint, a spider's web, a windblown autumn flower. The poetry is of pedestrian calibre, with an occasional note of coyness. "We'll tell you who we are./ We're little brown men who live in the thick of the forest . . ." one poem begins, and another: "Hello! Hello! My small friends./ Grown-ups, having no imagination, tell me I'm a variety of wild aster."

Weingast, David E. We Elect a President; illus. with photographs. Rev. ed. Messner, 1968. 191p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.64.

- R 6-10 A revision of a 1962 publication, the text written in an informal style in colloquial language. The glossary and bibliography have few changes, but the text and index entries have been brought up to date with material about election years subsequent to 1962, or with other pertinent material, such as the changing image of the vice-presidential office. Although not as succinctly written as Gray's How We Choose a President (St. Martin's, 1968) this is made interesting by a number of colorful anecdotes and by the author's analyses of factors and influences behind the choice of candidates or the direction of their campaigns.

Whitney, Thomas P., tr. The Story of Prince Ivan, the Firebird, and the Gray Wolf; tr. from the Russian by Thomas P. Whitney; illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. Scribner, 1968. 30p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.44 net.

R
3-5 A translation of a classic Russian fairy tale, with striking illustrations in which soft tones and spare lines are made dramatic by the skillful use of space and bold design. Prince Ivan, sent off by his father to find the firebird, is helped in all his endeavors by the gray wolf who, with omnipotent magic, even brings the murdered Ivan back to life, so that he can accuse his evil brothers and claim his beautiful bride. The translation is based on the Bilibin edition; the writing is sedate, a good foil for the melodramatic plot.

Wier, Ester. The Winners; illus. by Ursula Koering. McKay, 1968. 179p. \$3.95.

Ad
5-7 En route to visit his aunt in Florida, Scrub Nolan has his money stolen by two tough men; he is rescued by an Indian boy, Jim, who becomes a good friend and Scrub's teacher in the art of getting along in the wilderness. The two boys attach themselves to Cap, an elderly man who lives on a houseboat, and they enter a swamp buggy race in order to help Cap. The book will hold charms for lovers of wild life, since Scrub's growing interest in swamp fauna and conservation is his path to self-confidence and the most colorful part of the story. The ending is quite contrived, since the two thieves appear as contest entrants and there is a final scene of race-and-chase with the help of the police that is straight out of an old-time movie.

Reading for Teachers

To order any of the materials listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

Cianciolo, Patricia. "Motivation and Interpretation in the Literature Program." Elementary English, March, 1967.

Cohen, David, consultant. Recommended Paperback Books for Elementary Schools. Book Mail Service. One copy free to schools if on official stationery. 48p. \$.50. Box 363, Jamaica, New York 11431.

Darling, Richard. "Instructional Materials Centers - Library Services." Instructor, November, 1967.

Frazier, Alexander. "A Teacher's Library For You." Instructor, October, 1967.

Holt, John. "How Teachers Make Children Hate Reading." Redbook, November, 1967.

King, Martha L. and others, ed. Critical Reading. Lippincott, 1967. 464p. \$3.95. A compilation of fifty articles.

Kuhn, Doris Young. "Needed: Critical Evaluation of Trade Books." National Elementary Principal, February, 1968.

Lewis, Richard. "Bringing Poetry Out of Hiding." NEA Journal, February, 1967.

McCullough, Constance. "Linguistics, Psychology, and the Teaching of Reading." Elementary English, April, 1967.

Pope, Lillie. Guidelines to Teaching Remedial Reading to the Disadvantaged. Faculty Press, 1967. 125p. \$2.75. Brooklyn, N. Y.

Smith, Lillian. The Unreluctant Years. Viking Compass Book, 1967. 193p. \$1.50.

Taylor, William. "Frodo Lives." English Journal, September, 1967.

